



Conversion Therapy and Intersex Rights Position

Position on Conversion Therapy:

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council supports banning conversion therapy in Iowa. Conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity through psychological torture.¹ Youth exposed to conversion therapy are 8 times more likely to commit suicide and 6 times more likely to report clinical levels of depression.² SIYAC believes that conversion therapy administered to minors is considered child abuse and thus punishable in the same way. All people in Iowa need access to a safe environment along with ensuring a healthy population.

Position on Intersex Rights:

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council supports banning invasive intersex procedures in Iowa. Intersex refers to people with variations in their reproductive and sexual anatomy that differ from what's traditionally male or female. The intersex procedure process is a form of involuntary genital mutilation and is medically unnecessary.³ SIYAC believes intersex procedures should be banned and the rights of intersex people should be continued to be upheld in Iowa. It is necessary to ensure the health and safety of intersex Iowans.

Regards,

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

¹<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2019/01/03/iowa-should-ban-conversion-therapy-lgbtq/2467117002/>

² <https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>

³ <https://www.iowasafeschools.org/issues/>